

• **Belmont Housing Trust Minutes for August 19, 2010**

**In Attendance**—Judie Feins, Roger Colton, Gloria Leipzig, Charles Laverty III, Alisa Gardner-Todreas, Ann Verrilli, Jonathan Jacoby

Guest—Steve Laferriere, Metro West Collaborative Developers

**Minutes**—The minutes for June 17, 2010, were approved. The minutes for July 15, 2010, were approved as amended.

**Metro West Collaborative Developers**—Steve and Alisa reported that the Jackson Street project in Waltham did not materialize due to loss of a state funding source. However, they could confirm that the process involving the MWCD worked as designed.

Steve provided an update on several potential development sites in Belmont:

- There was a discussion of potential development at the Moraine Street properties.
- The Murry-Sandler property is under agreement, but there may be some further news by the middle of September and Steve will follow up.
- There was nothing new to report on the Purecoat property.
- MWCD is currently not pursuing the prospect of the Demilla property on Pleasant Street.
- Finally, there was a brief evaluation of the 263 Trapelo Road site.

**Community Preservation Act Campaign**—The collection of signatures continues through the coming weekend and it is thought that enough will have been turned in to the Town Clerk's office to qualify for the November ballot. There was a good editorial in the Belmont Citizen-Herald. Messages are being prepared on the value of the CPA to the town and the fact that there are exemptions proposed for low-income property owners.

The following motion was presented, seconded and unanimously approved: "The Belmont Housing Trust is on record as supporting the effort to enact the Community Preservation Act for Belmont."

**Other Business**—There was a short discussion of a forum proposed by the Human Rights Commission and Belmont Against Racism presenting both sides of the November ballot initiative which, if passed, would repeal the Massachusetts law 40B. Trust members thought a presentation on the pros and cons of the 40B law would be preferable to a debate from both sides. The suggestion was made that the League of Women Voters might be willing to host such an event.

**Annual Meeting**—The Trust by-laws require an annual meeting in July to elect officers. Due to the attendance of Selectman Paolillo at the July meeting a special meeting in lieu of the annual meeting was now called.

The by-laws do not specify any terms of office, but it was agreed there needed to be some manner of transition. The decision, ratified by unanimous agreement, was to elect Judie Feins and Alisa Gardner-Todreas as Co-Chairs, Gloria Leipzig and Charles Laverty as Vice Co-Chairs and Jonathan Jacoby as Secretary. The schedule of meetings for 2010-2011 was reviewed and it was noted that the Trust will now be short two members—increased from one by the departure of Roger Colton. Roger was praised and thanked for his effective leadership and

productive participation from the founding of the Trust. He goes on to contribute to other important work for the benefit of Belmont. As a parting message Roger reminded the Trust board that there is a low-income water discount that is not being utilized to the extent possible and should be promoted.

Submitted by Jonathan Jacoby